

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

April 2014

Judy Mathiau

Inventory Update Project – As of May 1st, we received another 200 plus responses since last month – bringing the total to 1700 plus out of 3,000. The forms and the phone calls are still coming in from homeowners! I have begun the process of reviewing each form that comes through and comparing the data to our existing records. Some minor adjustments, both down and up have occurred. More to report next month!

Summit Natural Gas – We have still not received information from Summit but the local assessors did meet regarding a user's license for the GIS files. The contractual agreement was lengthy and it was the consensus of the assessors that it may not be to the best of our advantage at this time. However, the company did say that they would be able to give us reports from these files that would include length and diameter and location of the infrastructure. This will be very helpful.

Annual Vision Users Group Conference – each year this software company holds a users group conference in New England. This year, it will be held in CT the first week of May. I will be attending and looking forward to learning more about the recent upgrade installed here in Winslow.

Foreclosures – it is discouraging to see so many foreclosure actions recorded at the registry. These actions are not an actual foreclosure, but a disclosure that the mortgagor has demanded payment "or else". Once the time period for redemption elapses, we typically see a transfer of the property by the bank at auction. Other times, the bank will try to negotiate with the owner, or file another extension. It is mind boggling.

Vacant Homes – once we receive the action document, I print the record of the property so that I may visit and review the status. Unfortunately, often times, they are abandoned and in poor condition.

Missing Frank – as most are aware, our long time code officer Frank Stankevitz retired from his position. Frank and I shared the same space and worked together every day. He was a wealth of knowledge and knew every person, landmark and property in Winslow. When I first started here 4 years ago, he was supportive in my transition as the new assessor, to which I am grateful. I have missed him these past weeks and often catch myself when turning towards his empty chair to ask him a question, but then chuckle to myself and hope that he is resting, relaxing and enjoying!